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Letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit hereby a communiqué of the Government of Burundi on Security Council resolution 2279 (2016), for circulation as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Communiqué of the Government of Burundi on United Nations Security Council resolution 2279 (2016) of 1 April 2016

The Government of Burundi appreciates the efforts made by the international community, and by the United Nations in particular, and the close attention that the United Nations continues to pay to Burundi with a view to finding a path to a solution to the problems that Burundi is currently facing.

Accordingly, the Government has taken note of resolution 2279 (2016) adopted by the Security Council at its 7664th meeting on 1 April 2016. This resolution complements resolution 2248 (2015) adopted on 12 November 2015.

The Government of Burundi again thanks the Security Council for its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Burundi. It also shares its conviction that security in Burundi and the protection of its people are primarily the responsibility of the Government of Burundi.

With regard to the resolution of problems within Burundi, the Government is already committed to organizing inter-Burundian dialogue with a view to identifying all the problems that undermine Burundian society and to proposing solutions. Furthermore, in an attempt to lead this ongoing process to a successful conclusion, the Government of Burundi has officially stated its intention to cooperate with the United Nations in order to secure its assistance in support of that process.

In accordance with the Government's commitment, the inter-Burundian dialogue conducted under the facilitation of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, currently supported by the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Benjamin William Mkapa, involves all Burundians, whether they are in Burundi or outside the country. The Government has always had an open-minded approach on this issue and has said so consistently. It has also made gestures of goodwill to demonstrate that fact.

Accordingly, the national commission responsible for steering the intra-Burundian dialogue is ready to work together with the facilitation team to jointly organize the dialogue with diaspora Burundians.

As regards the work of the commission, the Government wishes to inform the public that the first phase of the inter-Burundian dialogue has just been completed in the country's 18 provinces and the commission is about to organize meetings involving the various social groups in all communes.

However, it goes without saying that this dialogue can involve only those stakeholders who are committed to finding a peaceful solution. The Government of Burundi shares this stance with the United Nations, which recently adopted resolution 2279 (2016), in addition to resolution 2248 (2015) adopted on 12 November 2015.

Similarly, the Government of Burundi wishes to reiterate that no matter how inclusive the dialogue might be, it will not be a substitute for the work of the legal system or provide a cloak for impunity.

As for the deployment of United Nations police, the Government fully agrees with the need for the presence of limited numbers of (around 20) unarmed police experts to provide the expertise needed by the Burundian security forces to promote human rights and more generally advance the rule of law.

The Government of Burundi is prepared to conduct all necessary consultations with the United Nations to reach an agreement on the practical means for the arrival and deployment of those police officers. Their presence would also strengthen the activities of African Union observers, whose deployment modalities are currently the subject of negotiations.

Lastly, the Government of Burundi welcomes the good intention of the Security Council to consider measures against all actors, inside and outside Burundi, whose actions and statements contribute to the perpetuation of violence and impede the search for a peaceful solution.

To that end, the Government of Burundi looks forward to concrete action by the Security Council. The Government is convinced that available reports indicate that persons outside the country are training and arming those who commit acts of violence and disrupt peace and security in Burundi.

Bujumbura, 12 April 2016

(*Signed*) Philippe **Nzobonariba**
Secretary-General and Spokesman of the Government